

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

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Joshua Lederberg
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

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Dear Malcolm:

I was very much struck by the concordance of our views and perspectives on matters ranging from "Unconditional Surrender" in World War II, to the threats of terrorism and use of CBW today.

While my main preoccupation remains my laboratory research, you might have gathered that I do spend a lot of my time on policy matters connected with these issues. My main formal channels are on advisory panels to the SecDef, the DCI, the CNO, the Secretary of Energy, the National Academy of Sciences; and informally beyond those. The burning issue on my mind right now is, as we discussed, defense of civil populations against CBW. It is an urgent problem here in NYC (and I have not ignored the municipal level of responsibility.) It can hardly be ignored in commitments overseas -- and it would be bizarre to have our troops reasonably well defended (as more or less they are), while the civil populations and logistic infrastructure in our allied territories are naked. There is plenty of insight -- Gen. Powell turned that around when he was JCS -- but severe problems of turf and mission.

You impressed me very much when you mentioned your approach to Harvard about funding a major research project in this area. I cannot respond with anything as comprehensive and systematic as that; but I have to mention that my own shoestring is abraded. Briefly, I am looking for funding for one research assistant, who can help me with the homework -- library lookup, file and records, correspondence -- needed to backup my extracurricular activity. This could be in the form of a research grant to the Rockefeller University, and including overhead and the like would come to about \$50,000 per year. I did have such support from the Pew Trusts foundation, while I was also chairing their advisory and selection committees on biomedical fellowships -- but reasonably, after ten years, I rotated off that particular connection, and am stuck chewing on rawhide to keep going.

I hope you will be open to continuing this discussion right after Labor Day.

Best wishes for the rest of the summer,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

** and it is built in that I am averse
to irresponsible publicity*

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